README File for ACS 2008 Summary File via Embargo FTP

Finding the Data

Directory Structure

Under the main FTP directory at http://www2.census.gov/acs2008_1yr/summaryfile/ there is a directory for each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, the United States (excluding Puerto Rico), and for example SAS programs on how to read the Summary Files into SAS. The directory structures are named in the following fashions.

1 The directories are named by the individual State name (DistrictofColumbia, PuertoRico, and UnitedStates as well).

2 A State that has spaces in the name will be compressed to remove the space(s) with the first letter of each word capitalized; Example: DistrictofColumbia.

3 The SAS Example program directory will be named SASExamplePrograms to show the directory at the top of the directory structure through FTP (the SASReadme.txt file will give additional information on the example programs).

Geography Information

Within each of the data directories, 50 States, Puerto Rico, and US, there will be a geography file named in the following convention.

Constant letter "g" followed by the year (2008) then followed by the period of the summary file (1 for a single year) then a State 2-digit alpha FIPS code followed by the .txt file extension; Alabama as an example g20081al.txt

For more information on the Summary File Geography file go to the following URL: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sf/tech_doc.htm

Zip Files (Compressed Files)

The data is available in the following fashion under the data directories: 20081<State 2-digit alpha FIPS code><Four Digit Sequence Number>000..zip

Alabama as an example for sequence number 0144: 20081al0144000.zip. For more

Information on the data in the Summary Files go to the following URL: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sf/tech_doc.htm

Please note the sequence numbers go from 0001 to 0158.

The zipped files (compressed files) each contain 3 text files in the following format

Estimate Files - letter 'e' followed by year '2008' followed by time period '1'<State 2-digit alpha FIPS code><Four digit Sequence Number>000.txt

Margin of Error Files - letter 'm' followed by year '2008' followed by time period '1'<State 2-digit alpha FIPS code><Four digit Sequence Number>000.txt

Standard of Error Files - letter 's' followed by year '2008' followed by time period '1'<State 2-digit alpha FIPS code><Four digit Sequence Number>000.txt

Using Alabama sequence number 0144 as an Example

Estimate File - e20081al0144000.txt
Margin of Error File - m20081al0144000.txt
Standard Error File - s20081al0144000.txt

Please note that because of added and dropped tables for 2008, sequence numbers tend to change each year. For more details, please reference the list of detailed tables is located on: http://www2.census.gov/acs2008_1yr/summaryfile/merge_5_6.xls